

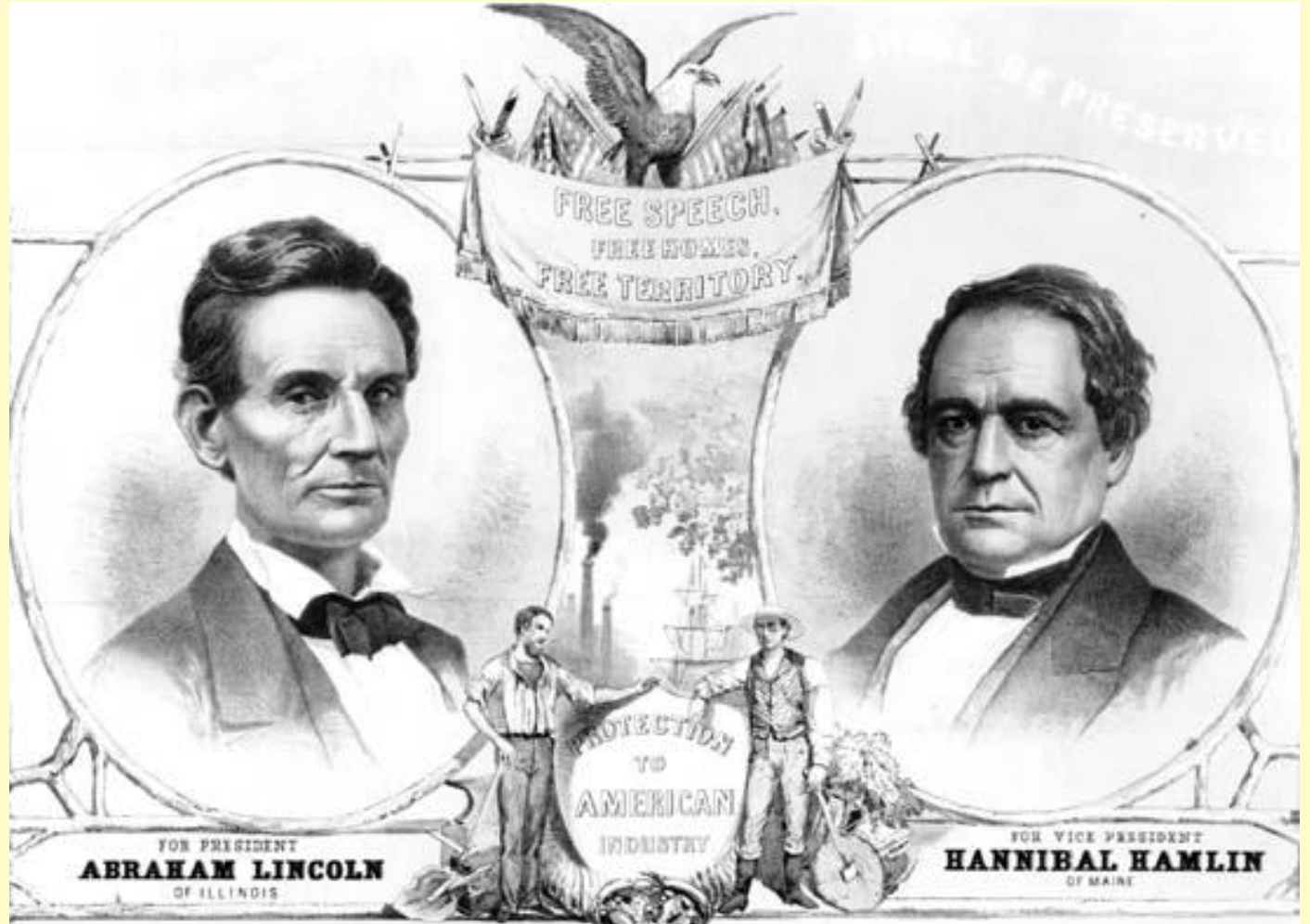


THE OPENING MOVEMENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Notes Emphasizing the Opening Movements of the War.

The Election of Abraham Lincoln, 1860

The Presidential Election of 1860 was one of the most divisive in American history. Two Northern Candidates – Abraham Lincoln and Stephen F. Douglas – faced off against two Southern Candidates – John Bell and John Breckinridge. Lincoln did not even appear on the ballot in ten Southern States, yet he won 40% of the popular vote and a majority of the Electoral College by sweeping the Northern States.

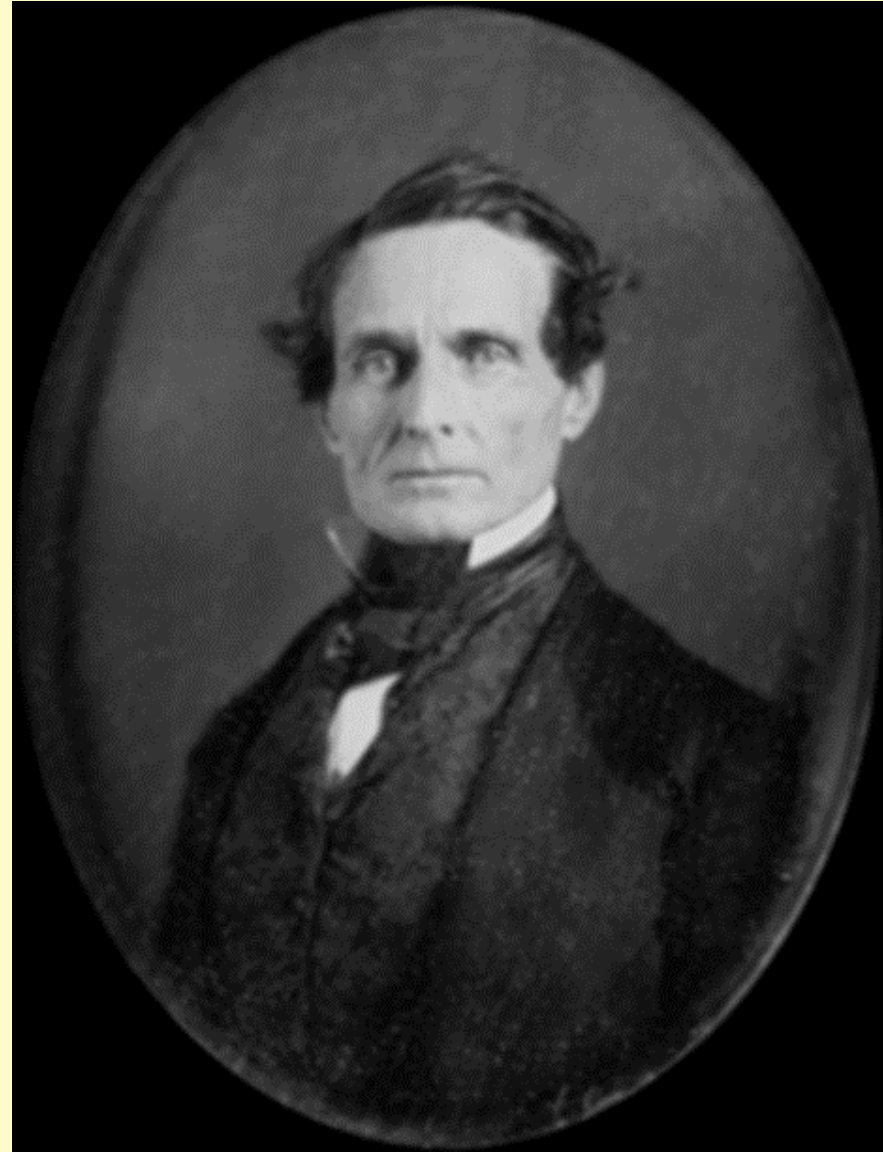


After Lincoln's Election, but before his inauguration, seven Southern States left the Union: SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, and Texas.

The Confederate States of America Form

The first seven states to join the Confederacy were South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. These states elected their first President in 1861 – the former Senator and Secretary of War from Mississippi, Jefferson Davis.

Although he was considered a bit of a curmudgeon, Davis had all the necessary experience to serve as a competent head of states.



The Bombardment of Fort Sumter

The First Battle of the Civil War began at 4:30 AM on April 12th, 1861.

Confederate forces under the command of Pierre T.G. Beauregard fired upon the fort, which was under the leadership of his former instructor at West Point, Major Robert Anderson.

After being shelled for more than 24 hours, the Fort was surrendered. No soldiers were killed during the battle, although a Confederate soldier and his horse died during a 100 gun salute to commemorate the victory after the battle finished.



Lincoln Calls for 75,000 Soldiers

After the attack on Fort Sumter, Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 soldiers to put down the insurrection in the state of South Carolina.

Aggressive posturing like this had worked before for other Presidents. Washington had raised an army to put down insurrection during the Whiskey Rebellion, and Jackson signed a Force Act – authorizing him to raise 30,000 men to invade South Carolina during the Nullification Crisis in 1832.

Lincoln may have believed he could still avert war... but he had miscalculated, if so.

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.
SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS
AND AN EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS.
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, The laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed in the



The Upper South Secedes

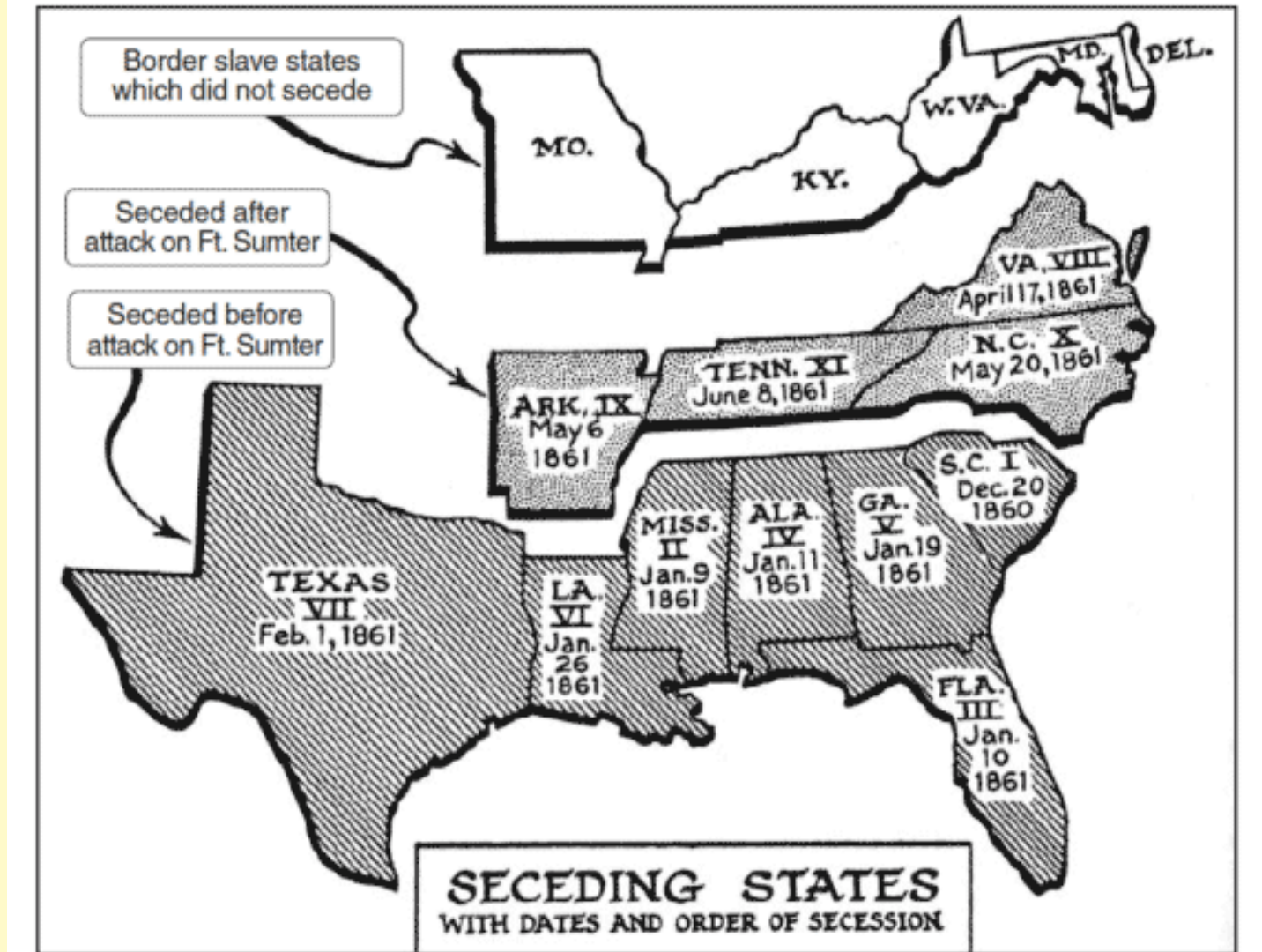
It was only after Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 soldiers to put down the rebellion that states in the Upper South decided to secede from the Union. By April of 1861, the following states had joined the Confederate States of America, as well:

Arkansas

North Carolina

Tennessee

Virginia



After Virginia joined the Confederacy, the capital of the new "nation" was moved from Montgomery, AL to Richmond, VA.

Border States

Here is the best evidence of all that the goal of the Union **WAS NOT** to end slavery at the start of the Civil War. Four states which remained in the Union – and the national capital – all allowed slavery during the Civil War:

Delaware

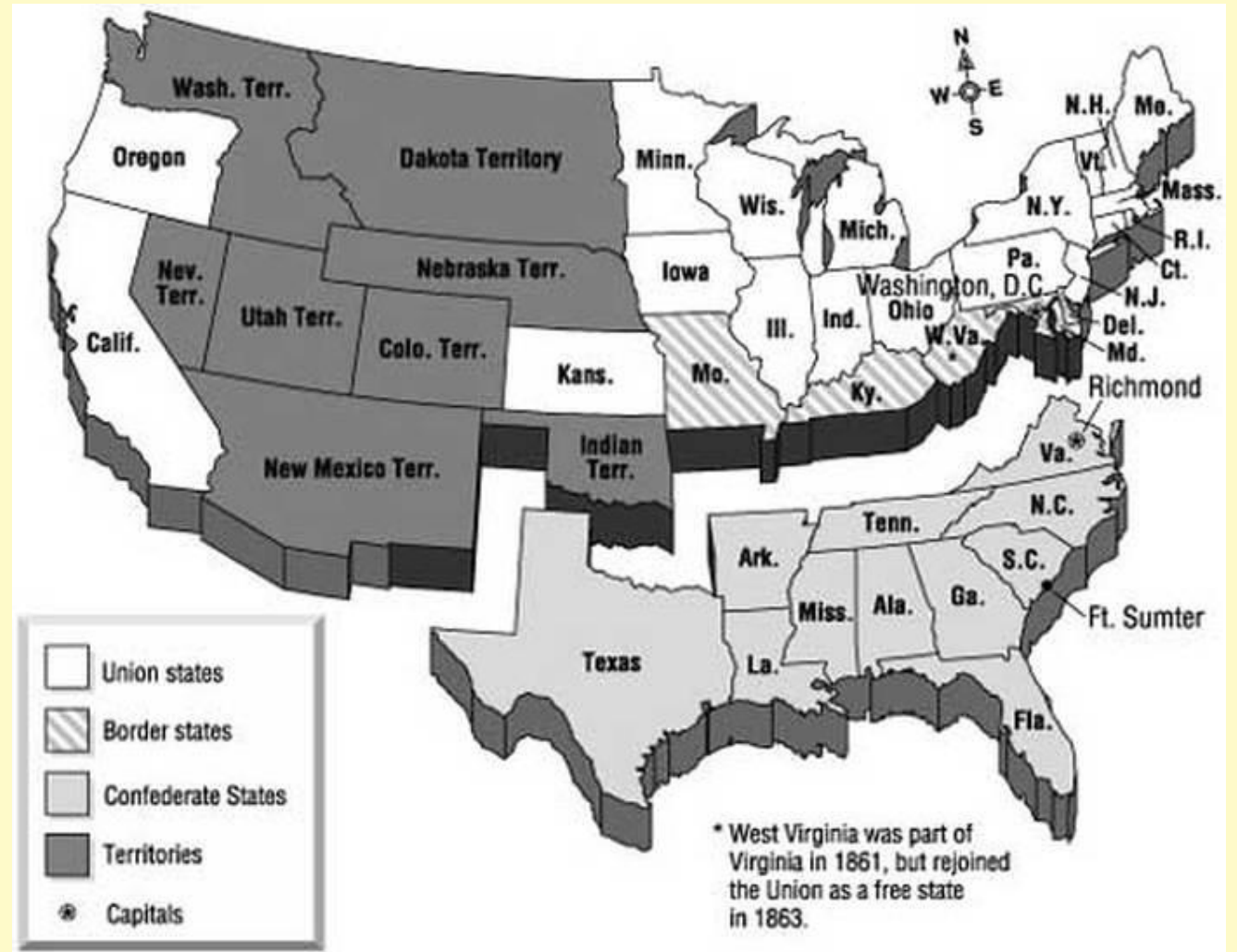
Maryland

Kentucky

Missouri

Washington, D.C.

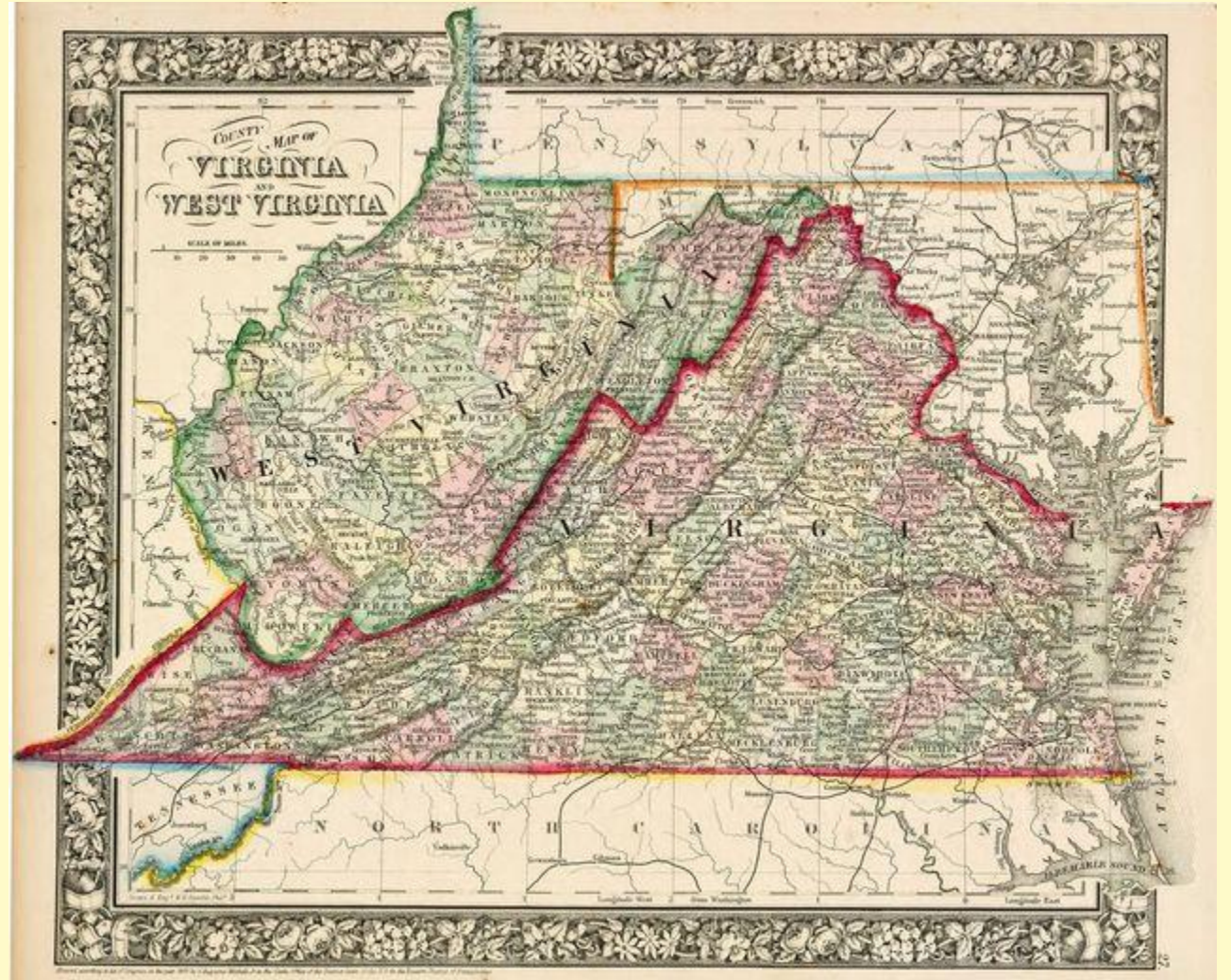
For a short period of time, West Virginia seems to have allowed slavery as well.



West Virginia Statehood

Abraham Lincoln refused to allow the Southern States to secede from the United States because he viewed secession as impossible if a democratic government was to persist. If states could secede from the Union, then counties and cities would secede from states, and communities would rapidly fall into chaos and anarchy.

Yet, in 1861, when West Virginia chose to secede from the state of Virginia, Lincoln was forced to acknowledge the new state. Did he approved of secession when it suited him?



Advantages of the Union

1. The Union's population was well over 20 Million. The Confederacy's total population was less than one half that number – and over 4 Million of them were enslaved African-Americans.
2. Industrial manufacturing and railroads, telegraphs, and other transportation and communication systems favored the North.
3. The Union had a navy with over 600 vessels, which remained loyal to the United States of America.
4. The Banks favored the North. There was no risk that the Union would cease to exist; there was considerable risk that the Confederacy would cease to exist.



Advantages of the Confederacy

1. The Goal of the Confederacy at the start of the Civil War was already accomplished: they wanted to be an independent nation. All they had to do now was defend their territory.
 2. Almost all of the fighting in the Civil War took place in the South. The Confederacy was much more familiar with the terrain during virtually every battle.
 3. The Confederacy produced more outstanding generals and military leaders at the start of the war: Joseph Johnson, Albert Sidney Johnson, Robert E. Lee. Even Jefferson Davis had experience as a former Secretary of War.
 4. The Confederacy hoped to secure an ally in their fight for independence – just like the Founding Fathers had. Both England and France considered helping the CSA because they were so dependent upon Southern cotton.
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The Anaconda Plan

1. The Union Navy established a blockade from Fort Monroe in Virginia to Galveston, TX. This would prevent the South from trading any of their cotton for guns and weapons.
2. Control the Mississippi River to prevent trade and cut off TX, LA, and Arkansas from the remainder of the Confederacy.
3. Total War: Destroy the property and livelihoods of Southern People.
4. Capture the Confederacy's capital city: Richmond, Virginia.

